

# Moodle

## Taming the Wild Wild Web 2.0

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Educause E-Learning Initiative 2008

Rachel Radom, UNC-Wilmington, Instructional Services Librarian

Shane Baptista, UNC-Wilmington, Computing Consultant



# Background

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- Library offers 3-credit hour information literacy class (LIB 103)
- Newly-hired instruction librarian wanted to use open source alternative to Blackboard
- Librarian and campus's open source proponent discuss Moodle
- Moodle server previously set up but Moodle unused by faculty

# Course Description

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- F2F, ~15 students x 3 groups
- Required course for IT minor
- Focus: information literacy, libraries, and social issues in digital age
- Use **Moodle** for class summaries (wikis), reading lists, calendar, class materials, etc., and **blogs** for class reflections

# Student Survey

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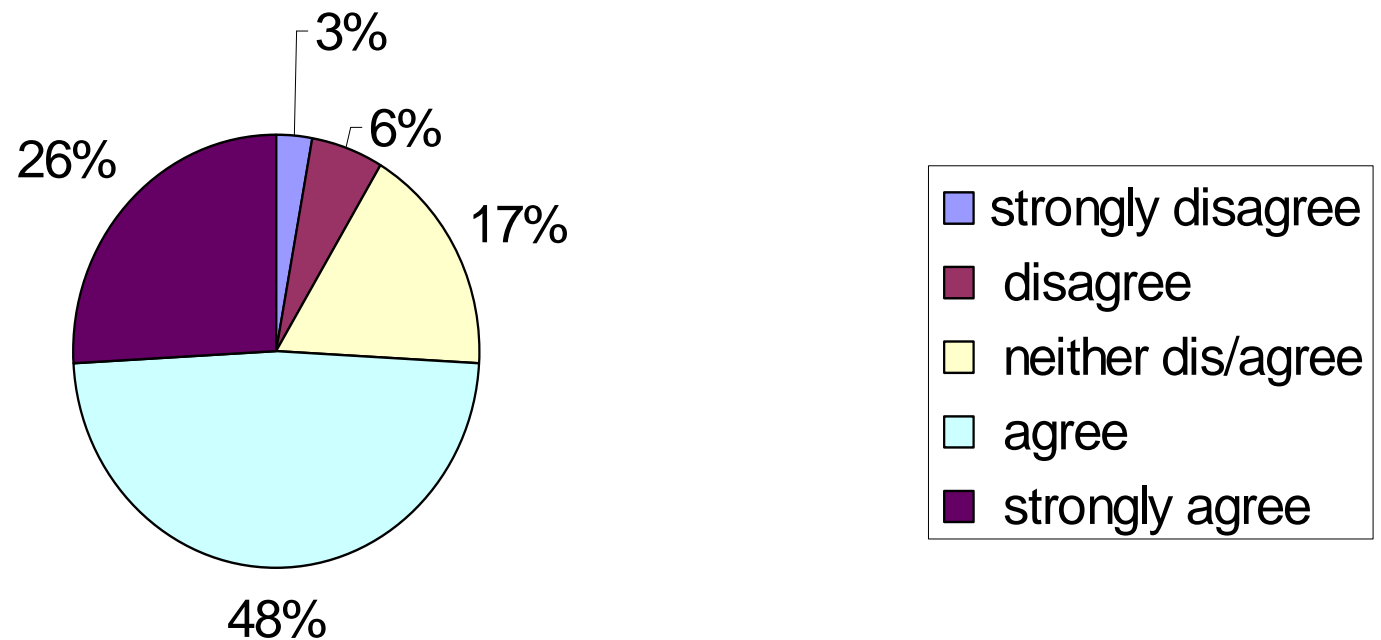
- 45 enrolled students, 38 surveys returned, 35 usable
- 25 Q's intended to measure students'...
  - Perceptions of overall usability and usefulness of Moodle and Wordpress.com
  - Perceptions of helpfulness of Moodle's features
  - Preferences between Moodle and Blackboard
  - General satisfaction with web 2.0 technologies

# Survey Results

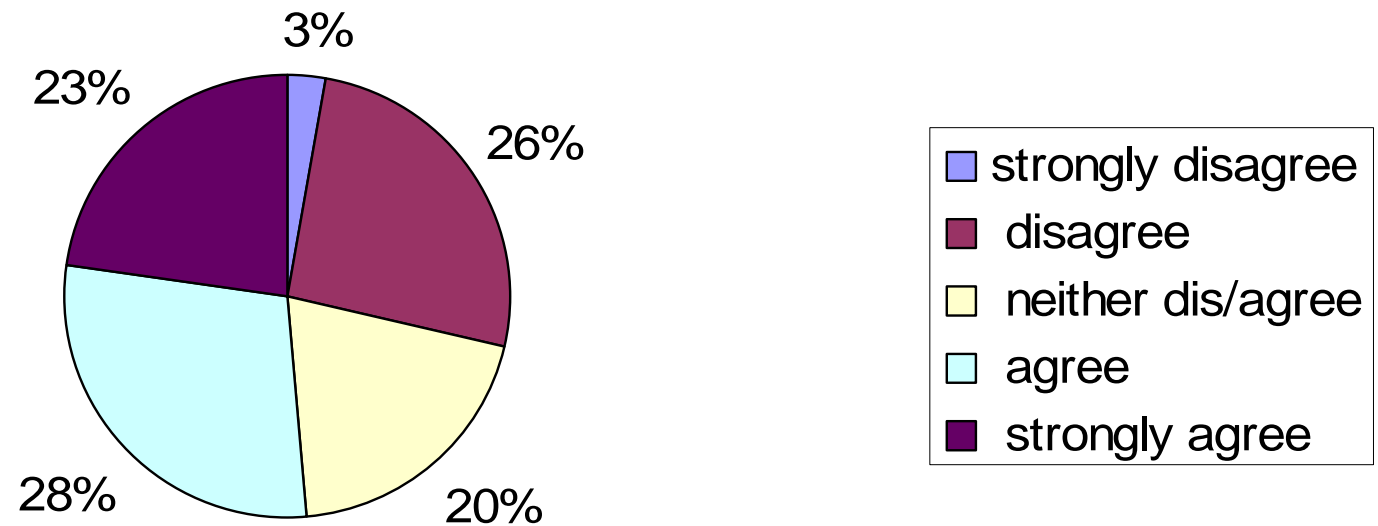
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- Students recommend use of Moodle in future classes (74% agree or strongly agree)
- Students recommend use of blogs in future classes (51% agree or strongly agree)
- Ease of interface navigation: Moodle easier to navigate than Wordpress.com
- Students' responses to Moodle (majority recommend its use in future and feel they benefited from it as students)
- Students slightly prefer Moodle over Blackboard
- Students' find many Moodle features helpful

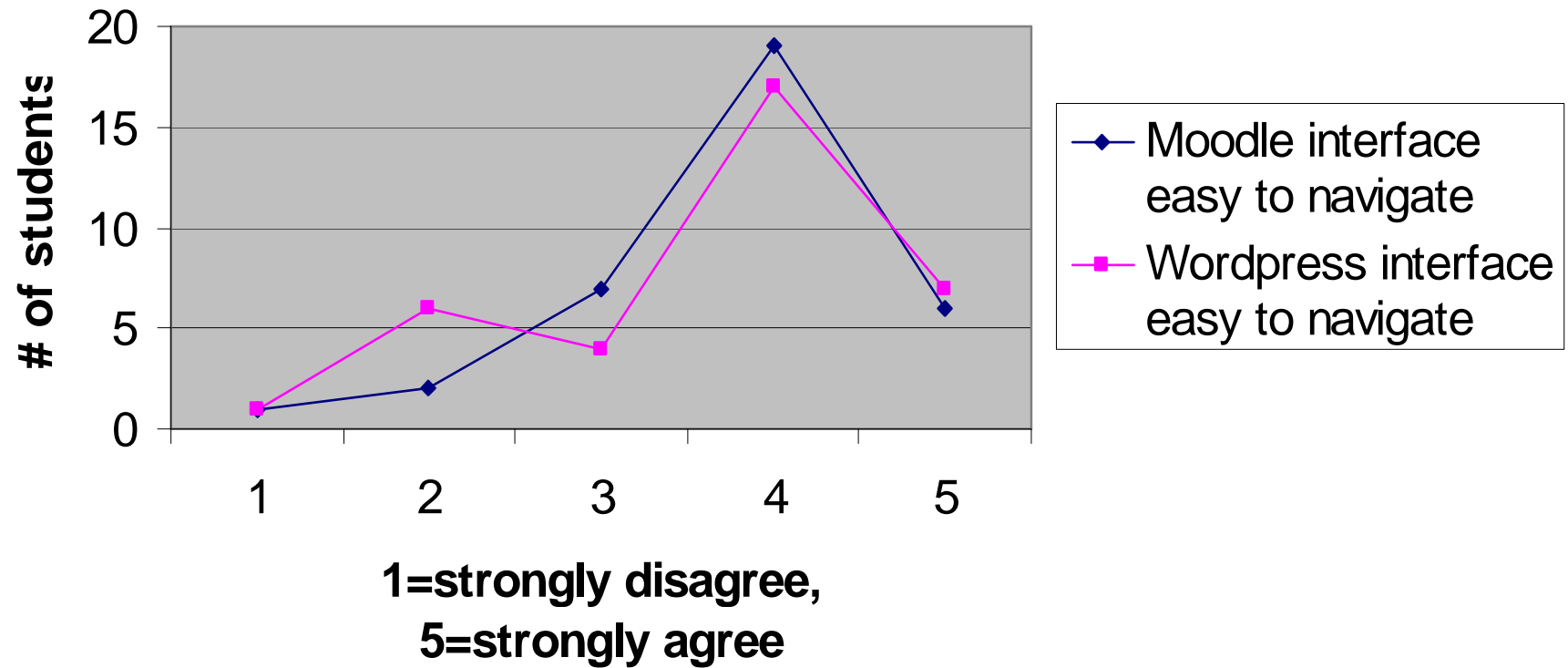
## Students and Recommendations for Using Moodle in Future Classes



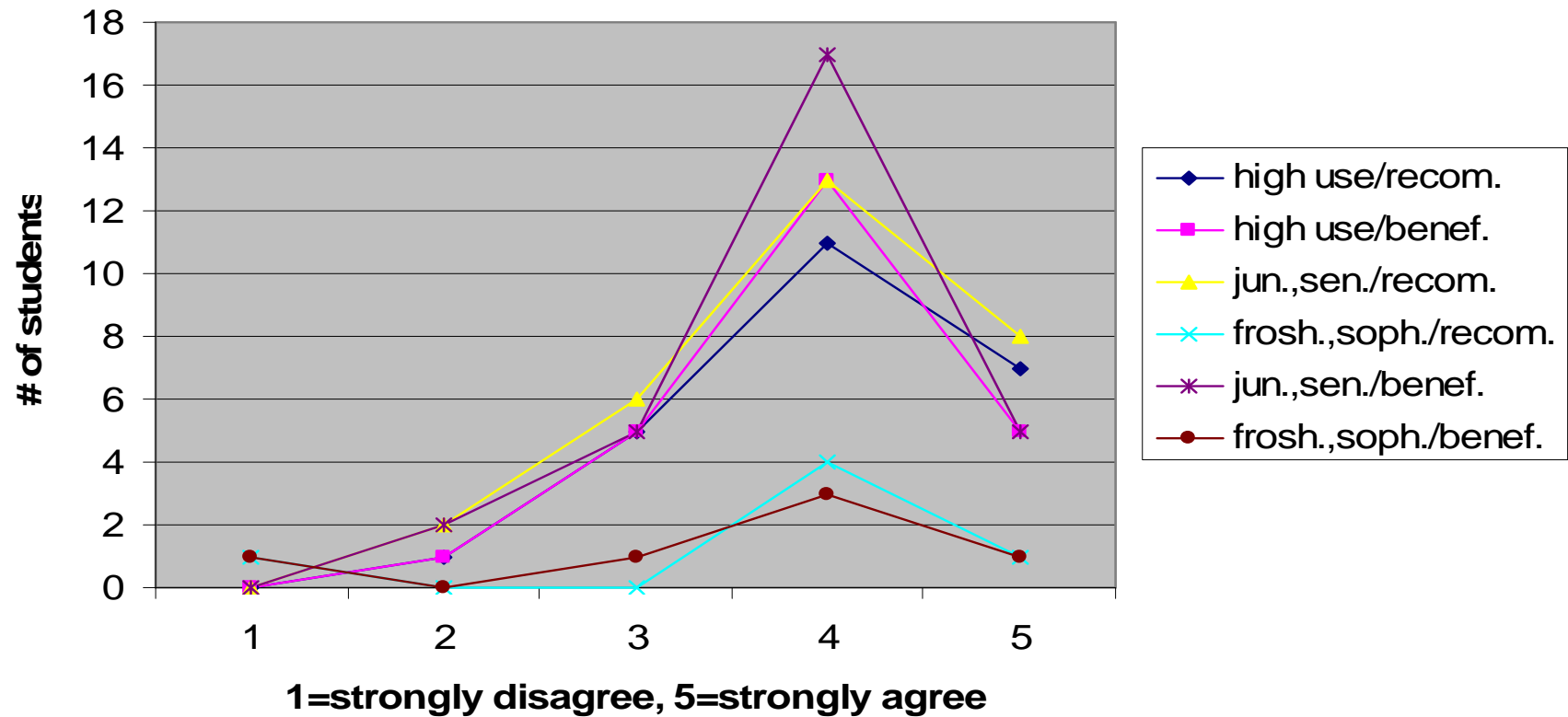
## Students and Recommendations for Using **Blogs** in Future Classes



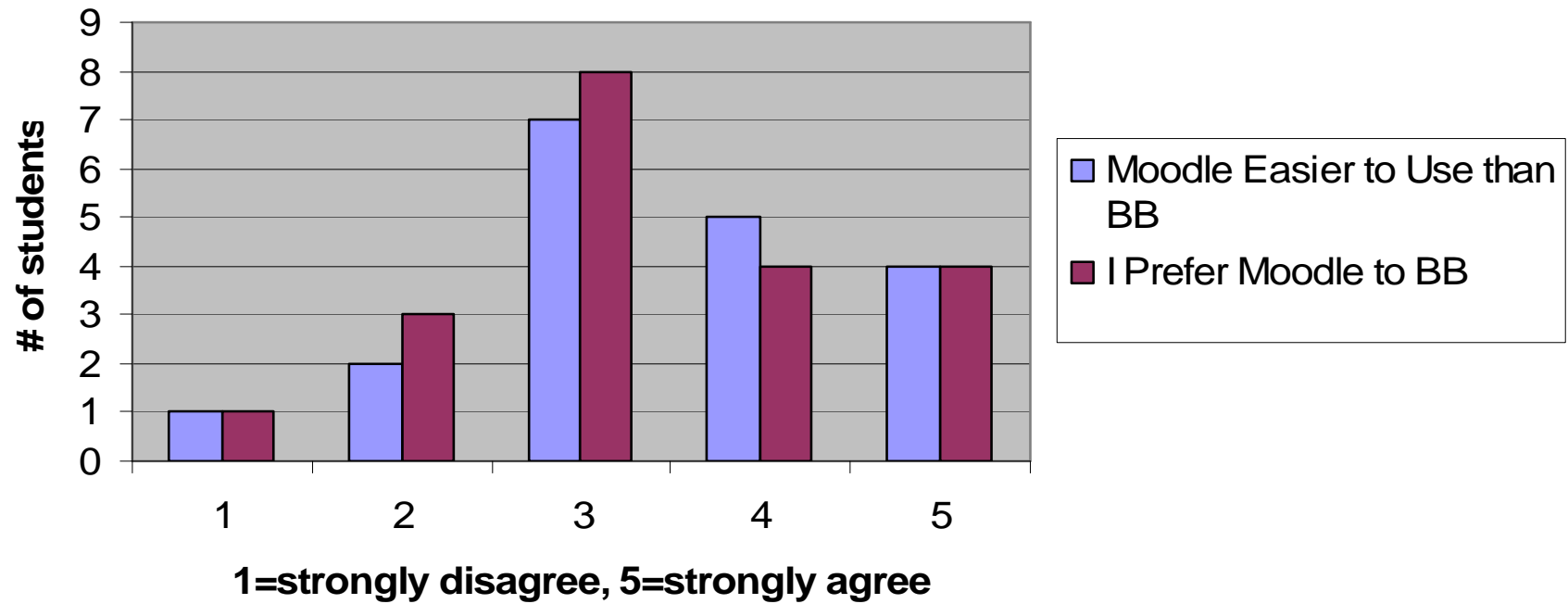
## Easy to Use? Moodle and Wordpress.com



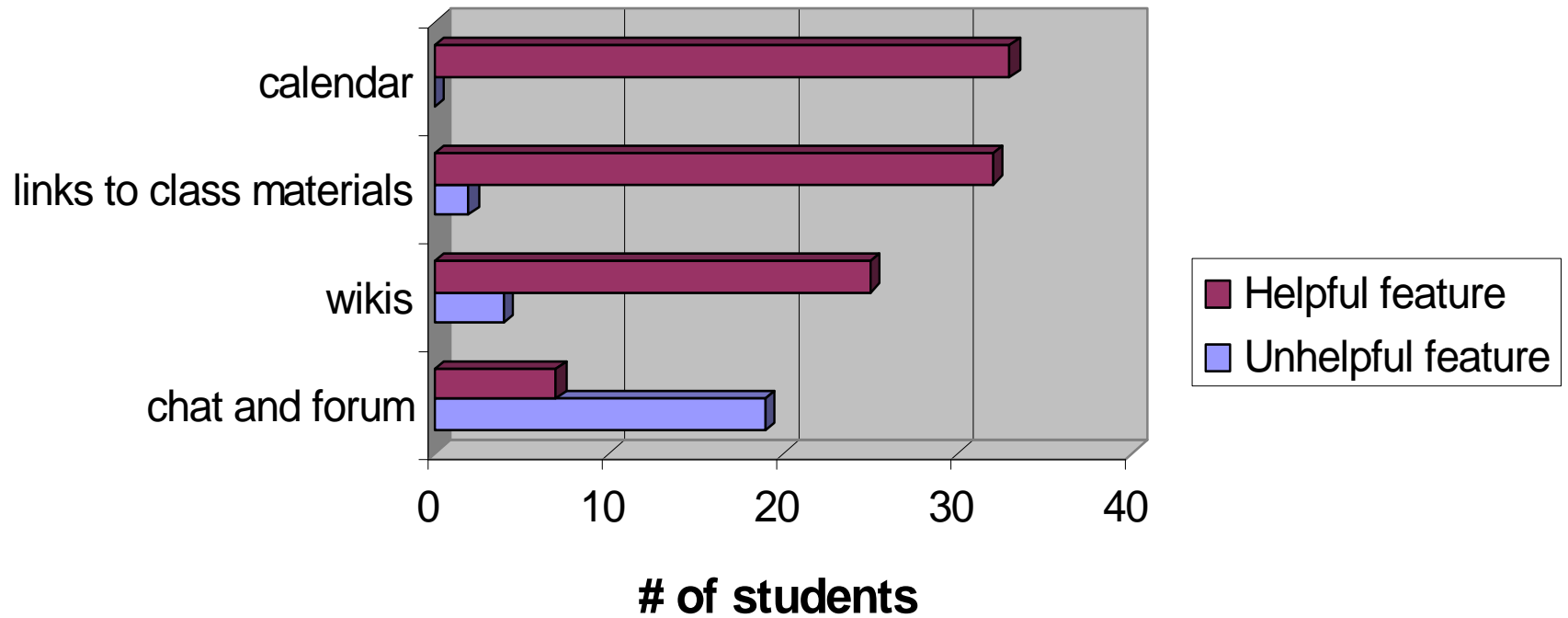
## Student Perceptions of Moodle: Recommended Use in Future Classes? Beneficial to Students?



## Students' Perceptions and Preferences, Moodle and Blackboard



## Student Perceptions of Moodle Features



# Sample of Students' Comments

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- “Writing blogs got me more interested in topics discussed in class.”
- “[Blogs] made you rethink what had been spoken about in class.”
- “It was fun advertising thoughts but it [keeping a blog] simply wasn't my style/personality.”
- “[Moodle] was easy to use and navigate. I didn't really have any dislikes.”
- “It [Moodle] was less easy to access as it was to use. Very helpful in organizing.”
- “Everything that was needed for the class was usually easily found on Moodle. I like going to one place for everything. It kept me in pace with the class.”

# Why Moodle?

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- Students create own “learning objects”
  - Students write class summaries in wiki format
  - Technology as a means to learning, not an end
- Moodle introduces students to a variety of web 2.0 tools in a single, integrated environment
- Moodle environment is easy to navigate for both students and instructor
- Supports information literacy
  - Students are creators and users of information
  - Students are collaborators in research and learning

# What's Ahead?

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- Moodle in LIB 103
  - Majority of students found Moodle helpful, beneficial, and recommended use in future
  - Instructor continues to use Moodle in classes and a variety of its features with little-to-no training
- Moodle at UNC-W
  - Moodle users group in development
  - Open source software receiving more institutional attention